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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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ACTION EUR-25

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P R 241055Z APR 71  
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0639

SUBJ: CZECH TV ON RFE

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2004 2005

1. CZECH TV EVENING APRIL 23 HAD ONE HOUR 10 MINUTE SHOW ON RFE IN WHICH FRED EIDLIN PLAYED MAJOR ROLE. PROGRAM RECALLED ALLEGED ACTIVITIES OF RFE IN FIFTIES, INCLUDING PURPORTED ROLE IN PROVOKING SITUATION DURING HUNGARIAN UPRISING. ARTICLES IN US PUBLICATIONS OPPOSING RFE WERE NOTED, AND SENATOR CASE'S OPPOSITION TO PRESENT RFE ADMINISTRATION WAS MENTIONED. ONE BRIEF REFERENCE WAS MADE TO FACT RFE IS OPERATION IN MUNICH, SITE OF 1972 OLYMPIC GAMES. THERE WAS SEVERAL FILM CLIPS OF POLISH INTELLIGENCE OFFICER CZECHOWICZ GIVING HIS STORY OF WORK AT RFE. TWO CZECHS RECOUNTED HOW RFE PERSONNEL APPROACHED THEM AT REFUGEE CAMPS IN FRG AND HOW RFE ORGANIZATION IN MUNICH FUNCTIONS. PHOTOS WERE SHOWN OF RFE BUILDINGS AND TRANSMITTERS AND OF PEOPLE BROADCASTING AND SUPPOSEDLY AT WORK IN RFE OFFICES. REFERENCE WAS MADE TO ALLEGED CONNECTION BETWEEN RFE AND CIA.

2. CENTRAL FIGURE IN SHOW WAS EIDLIN. FILM CLIPS SHOWED EIDLIN WALKING IN STREET APPARENTLY IN PRAGUE AND CAR DELIVERING HIM TO PLANE DAY OF HIS EXPULSION. SEVERAL PHOTOS OF EIDLIN TAKEN FROM VISA APPLICATION AND APPARENTLY DURING INVESTIGATIVE QUESTIONING WERE SHOWN. EIDLIN'S BACKGROUND, INCLUDING WORK AT RFE, WAS DESCRIBED. IT WAS NOTED HE FIRST TRAVELED TO CSSR IN 1965 AND WAS HERE IN AUGUST, 1968. CONTACT BETWEEN EIDLIN AND NIGERIAN STUDENT, EDMUND EKESIOBI, WHO SUPPOSEDLY PASSED INFO TO

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RFE WAS ALLEGED. EIDLIN'S PASSPORT WITH MANY VISAS TO SEVERAL EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WAS EXHIBITED. EXTENSIVE USE WAS MADE OF TAPES, EVIDENTLY MADE DURING INVESTIGATION, IN WHICH EIDLIN DESCRIBED IN CZECH HIS WORK AT RFE, HOW RFE FUNCTIONS AND HIS OPINION OF ORGANIZATION. PROSECUTION WITNESSES JANOS AND SEFRANEK TOLD THEIR STORIES ONCE MORE, BUT NO MENTION WAS MADE OF EIDLIN'S ARREST AND TRIAL.

3. USING A STAFFING PATTERN OF RFE ALLEGEDLY DRAWN UP BY EIDLIN, PROGRAM ALSO DISCUSSED PERSONS WORKING IN CZECHOSLOVAK SECTION OF RFE. SLAVA VOLNY GOT MOST ATTENTION AND FILM CLIPS OF HIM WERE SHOWN (TALL MAN WITH GLASSES AND VAN DYKE). OTHER STAFFERS SINGLED OUT (SOME WITH PHOTOS) INCLUDED KAREL JEZINSKY, PAVEL KOHN, HANUS HAJEK, ROMAN CILEK AND PETR PRIBIK. RFE STAFFER NIZNANASKY WAS ACCUSED OF WAR-TIME COLLABORATION WITH GERMANS AND WAS SAID TO HAVE TRIED AND SENTENCED IN ASENTIA TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT IN CSSR. AMERICAN STAFF MEMBERS NAMED INCLUDED RICHARD COOK, WILLIAM ROBINSON, AND PERSONS NAMED WALTER, HENRY AND KNOPF (?).

4. TV SHOW WAS FOLLOWED UP BY ARTICLE ON RFE IN RUDE PRAVO APRIL 24 WHICH IS ESSENTIALLY REHASH OF PROGRAM. ARTICLE DEVOTES ONE LINE TO EIDLIN WITHOUT MENTIONING IMPRISONMENT AND LEAVING IMPRESSION HE WAS EXPELLED AS JOURNALIST. ARTICLE SYAS "EIDLIN WHO WAS EXPELLED FROM CSSR LAST FEBRUARY FOR HIS...ACTIVITY COVERED BY JOURNALIST'S CARD..."

5. EDMUND EKESIOEI KNOWN TO EMEASSY. INITIAL CONTACT MADE IN LATE 1963 WHEN HE AND OTHER (AT THAT TIME) PIAFRAN STUDENTS PETITIONED EMEASSY FOR RECOGNITION OF PIAFRA. EKESIOEI FREQUENTLY VISITED EMEASSY PRESS AND CULTURAL SECTION FOR NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES, AND FROM TIME TO TIME HANDED OVER SAMIZDAT MATERIALS AND POLICY DIRECTIVES FROM RADIO PRAGUE, WHERE HE WORKED IN ENGLISH SERVICE TO ASIA AND AFRICA. HE LEFT PRAGUE IN AUGUST, 1969 TO STUDY JOURNALISM AT UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO. EMEASSY FACILITATED ENTRY TO US, WHICH HAD BEEN PROBLEM DUE TO LACK OF NORMAL NIGERIAN PASSPORT.

6. SUMMARY OF TV SHOW BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT (EUR/CHP) AND MUNICH.  
TOON

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